

GAVIOTA PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION, ENERGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE
OUTLINE OF ISSUES
(updated 03/02/11)

The following major subject areas are offered to structure and focus the discussion on this topic.

1. Union Pacific Railroad. While the County does not have much direct control over the railroad's use of its property, it is an important and ever present facility along the coast. Given the railroad pending upgrade of its roadbed and coastal facilities, we may want to consider a letter to the Board with our thoughts on issues which the County may want to explore with the railroad. Here are some preliminary thoughts on this matter;

- We should express our appreciation for the railroad's removal of the telegraph poles and lines. The removal of this impediment to ocean views from the highway corridor is a tremendous enhancement of the coastal vistas.
- Access across the tracks: This remains an ever present problem for public access to the beach. We should ask for more underpasses and better crossings.
- Barriers to fish passage: We should see the railroad's cooperation in projects to improve fish passage up the creeks in Gaviota.
- Invasive species: The railroad can introduce and support invasive species. So we want to seek the cooperation of the railroad in controlling invasive species?
- Beach revetment: Much of the railroad line is very close to the beach and protected by seawalls and other revetments. We should discuss continued protection of the existing road bed vs. realignment inland to avoid beach revetment.

2. Transportation corridor. The US 101 and UPRR corridor passes through Gaviota. Issues with this are:

- Scenic Highway. Do we want the highway corridor designated a Scenic Highway?
- Coastal lagoons and fish passage: The highway has obliterated many coastal lagoons and created impediments to fish passage thus affecting the health of the coastal watersheds. Can we seek Cal Trans's assistance in correcting these mistakes or mitigating their effects?
- Coastal Access: The highway provides the means for much access to the beaches. Should those access points be better focused so that random exit and entry onto the highway is minimized?
- Invasive species: The highway can be the source of invasive species which spread to adjacent lands. Should County policy seek cooperation with CalTrans to minimize this threat?

3. Other public roads: Other than Highway 101 the only public roads in Gaviota are Ferren Road and Refugio Road. Should County policy encourage the gradual

transformation of those roads to meet current fire department standards and to remove barriers to fish passage?

4. Renewable energy facilities: Some issues with these facilities include:

- Distributed energy facilities: Policies should encourage small scale wind and solar facilities to render properties self sufficient in energy generation. However, such facilities should be sited to be as unobtrusive as possible.
- Major energy facilities: Gaviota can be the site for major wind farms and solar energy facilities due to its geographical setting and having a grid line passing through it. What do we want to say about the appropriateness of such facilities?

GavPAC recommendation to Staff made during Meeting No. 28:

a) Extend the County's inland area enabling ordinance for commercial scale wind energy to the Coastal Zone west of the Gaviota Pass watershed.

5. Fire Department issues: The only fire station in Gaviota is near Gaviota Pass. It is financially supported by the Pt. Arguello Partners as a condition of its permit for the oil and gas processing facility at Gaviota. This and other issues with respect to fire protections present the following matters for consideration:

- What fire protection will Gaviota have once Station 18 is not longer funded by Pt. Arguello Partners? Is this a planning issue?
- How does one reconcile the need for good road access with environmental issues raised in road grading and construction?
- How do we reconcile the requirements of the fire department and insurance companies for ground clearing around residences with environmental protection?

6. Tajiguas Landfill: The Department of Public Works, Resource Recovery & Waste Management is in the conceptual stages of a Conversion Technology (CT) project to convert waste that would otherwise go to Tajiguas Landfill into energy. A CT facility would likely extend the life of Tajiguas Landfill as the landfill would take longer to reach its capacity. A Notice of Preparation (NOP) to initiate California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review of the CT project is scheduled to commence in June 2011.

GavPAC recommendation to Staff made during Meeting No. 27:

- a) Make CT and waste disposal at Tajiguas done in such a way so as to reduce impacts to the community as a whole (e.g., de-packing/consolidating loads into larger trucks so as to reduce truck trips to Tajiguas).
- b) Have Tajiguas only accept waster materials from within the County.
- c) Make any change to operations at Tajiguas done only with a complementary reduction in impacts to the Gaviota Region.